

# **MATTHEWS VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

March 1, 2017

## **Minutes**

Vice-Chairperson Tom Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present. Chairman Fisk Outwater is recovering from surgery.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Tom Cannon read a prayer from his Mother's Anglican Common Prayer Book.

**Committee Members present:** Tom Cannon, Terry Price, Jack Santaniello, Angelo Renguso, Janet Perkins, Larry Stawicki, Kathleen Wilsbach, Ed Dement, Dessi Dufresne and Beth McLemore.

**Guests welcomed:** Tom welcomed Anna Guerrero and Tabitha Sanabria, both sophomores at Butler High School in Matthews. As a requirement of their civics honor class, these students needed to attend a ToM committee meeting and report on it.

**Minutes of February 1, 2017.** The minutes were approved as transmitted.

### **Old Business:**

#### **1. Subcommittee 1.**

a. Tom reported that Amanda Kohout had agreed to be the designated person to input MVAC information, i.e., minutes, veteran calendar of events and other pertinent MVAC information on the ToM website and update as needed. Rad Pate, ToM Staff Liaison, said he will make this happen within a week or so. Dessi Dufresne verified that the ToM does have a Facebook page.

b. In line with subcommittee objectives, placards are printed and available. Two banners are on order. The MVAC meeting sign is now displayed on meeting day in the Town Hall entryway in front of the library. The half-page MVAC information sheet was edited, approved, printed and handed to MVAC members. Dessi said she would print additional copies at her office. The first MVAC press release approved by ToM staff has not been sent to news media to date due to a personnel vacancy. Rad will follow up.

c. A new objective to develop a 10-minute power point presentation about the MVAC to other ToM committees and departments was presented to Rad Pate. Rad said that could be arranged at a weekly ToM staff meeting held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in meeting room. Tom will take for action.

**2. Subcommittee 2.** Ed Dement expressed his deep personal disappointment regarding the ToM not taking the MVAC seriously as a ToM committee with little feedback as to the goals and accomplishments of the MVAC. In regard to goals and plans of action for his committee, Ed gave the following report:

a. Refine and modify current events calendar to explore ways to expand its audience through ToM website and other available outlets.

b. Three new ideas were announced:

(1) MVAC special event breakfast to promote local awareness of the MVAC committee's work with veterans with target date of June at the Mount Moriah

Missionary Baptist Church fellowship hall. Church members and MVAC committee members to prepare food. More information in March and April.

(2) A “coffee and donut” event in August with other area veteran groups to bring awareness of the MVAC mission, goals and objectives as a ToM chartered commit

(3) Build a speaker’s bureau/list of speakers for events. No action to date.

c. The 2018 Signature Event conceptual framework has been discussed in subcommittee with both Chair and Vice-Chair to help prepare Fisk with the MVAC Signature Event briefing to the ToM on March 27. Two suggested names for the Signature Event are: “Celebrating our Patriotic Heritage” and “Our Town Our Patriots Our Community.”

### **3. Subcommittee 3.** No report.

**4. Subcommittee 4.** In Gregg Smith’s absence, Tom gave Gregg’s report that each member of the committee was given a section of the NC4VETS magazine to research local veteran and non-veteran resources and possible discounts offered to veterans to be published in a smaller format. Janet had a question for Rad concerning the viability of the ToM publishing this smaller publication. Rad said there is no “in-house” department to handle printing requests. He suggested local printers for getting a cost estimate for budgeting. The committee expects to have the resource information ready by the end of May. With budget requests required by the end of March, the committee may want to post the information on the ToM website as suggested by Larry Stawicki for this fiscal year. Tom reminded committee that content must be approved by ToM Staff.

**5. MVAC Budget Requests.** All subcommittees are required to submit its budget requests for Fiscal Year 2018 on March 31, 2017 to the Chairman for approval. These requests will then go to Jack Santaniello, Treasurer for forwarding to the ToM Finance Committee.

**6. Vietnam War Exhibit.** The Matthews Community Center, an entity of the ToM, is available to MVAC from Friday, May 19 through May 30 for the Vietnam War Exhibit, a static display privately owned and on loan to MVAC through Gary and Carol Aljets. According to Ed Dement his committee does not “own” this event but he has been requested to report on it. A schedule will be set up for the open times of the exhibit and all members of MVAC will be asked to take a time slot or two. Ed said he is going to ask other veteran organizations in the area to help with this endeavor. He suggested longer event times on May 29 because of the Memorial Day event being held in Stumptown Park. Kathleen suggested that a member of MVAC be available along with an outside volunteer as MVAC is accountable for its safety. Larry Stawicki asked how MVAC will get the word out regarding exhibit times, etc. Ed said the plan is to contact other veteran organization and media. Ed said he has a friend in Mint Hill that is planning to write an article about the exhibit. Kathleen raised an objection to outsiders writing articles and that press releases and other media should be the responsibility of Subcommittee 1 and vetted by the ToM. Others expressed their agreement. Tom Cannon said Subcommittee 1 will be responsible for advertising the event. Mr. Colten Marble, the Cultural Recreation Manager, at 704-708-1263, is the POC at the Community Center. Veterans and private citizens will be able to add to the exhibit with approval from the ToM.

**6. Prospective Member.** Jim Whatley’s application has been delivered to ToM, but Jim has not attended the last two meetings nor introduced himself to MVAC regarding his

interest in becoming a member. Kathleen reminded the committee that Fisk made it clear that MVAC maintain a potential member protocol before accepting a member to move forward to Town Commission for final approval.

**New Business:**

**1. Bylaw Changes.** Approved MVAC changes to the bylaws including elections and terms will go before the Town Commission on March 13 according to Staff Liaison Rad Pate.

**2. Chairperson's Executive Briefing to ToM.** The April 17 date for this briefing is pending.

**3. Upcoming Events.** Ed Dement announced several upcoming veteran events:

a. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans free event, Wednesday, March 29, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old JC Penney store in Salisbury including lunch.

b. Purple Heart event May 5.

c. Camp Greene (WWI) Centennial – July 15-16. (See MVAC February minutes)

d. Korean War event – July 30 in Concord.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathleen Wilsbach, Secretary